

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Fairbanks North Star Borough****Federal Tax ID: 73-1677483****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Fairbanks North Star Borough - Equinox Marathon Trail -- Parks Highway to Fairbanks via Ester Dome - Alaska Long Trail

State Funding Requested: \$1,450,000**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (1-5)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

The project will focus on securing easements, constructing a new section of trail on Ester Dome, and building trailheads. Ester Dome is the premier high point in Fairbanks. This project would also help connect the Alaska Long Trail to Fairbanks via Ester Dome and the Equinox Trail.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$1,450,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,450,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Equinox Marathon Trail connects several of the most popular trails through the heart of Fairbanks: The Skarland Ski Trail, the UAF Campus trails, the Ester Dome Singletrack trail, and multiple trails on Ester Dome. The route is used for the popular race and for year-round recreation. Better access to and development of this trail route gives visitors the chance to explore several local trail systems, find impressive views, and traverse excellent single-track trail. The project will focus on securing easements, constructing a new section of trail on Ester Dome, and building trailheads. Ester Dome is the premier high point in Fairbanks. This project would also help connect the Alaska Long Trail to Fairbanks via Ester Dome and the Equinox Trail.

BENEFITS AND NEED

This is the ultimate upland connection for Long Trail to Fairbanks communities.

Creates a well-defined route suitable for hikers, bikers and skiers of all experience levels.

Connects multiple trail systems, and some of Fairbanks' very best.

Creates possibility for smaller, convenient loops.

Ends at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Campus, home of the Museum of the North & the "Into the Wild" bus.

Increased draw and economic impact potential for the Equinox Marathon event.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Alaska DNR ML&W, University of Alaska Fairbanks

PROJECT LEAD AND PARTNERS

Project lead: Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Recreation

Partners: FNSB Parks will work with AKMHTL and DNR to expand its existing easements on Ester Dome. Running Club north may also be a key project partner as the coordinator of the Equinox Marathon Race.

PROJECT STATUS

Nearly all this route exists, though some sections lack year-round access and a new trail section needs built. Funds will purchase access easements, construct new trail, repair some damaged sections of existing trail, and improve wayfinding and trailheads along the trail system.

The Equinox Marathon Trail is a priority trail in the Borough's 2006 Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan.

USE: Mixed: Mostly non-motorized, some multiple-use/motorized.

ESTIMATED COST

Access/Easement expansion: \$250,000

1 mile of upland trail construction = \$150,000

Trailheads & Restrooms, multiple locations = \$1,000,000

Project oversight and management: \$50,000

Total: \$1,450,000

Project Timeline:

2023

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Fairbanks North Star Borough

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No